

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8475

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10447

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN

REF: A. PEKING 1207; B. HONG KONG 9372

SUMMARY. PRC MEDIA CONTINUE TO REFLECT THE CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE
CONFUCIUS WITHOUT GIVING NEW CLUES AS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL TARGET IN
THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY

1. THE BRITISH HAVE PASSED US A SIMILAR REPORT OF THE ANTI-
CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN AT PEKING UNIVERSITY (REF A). IT IS NOTEWORTHY
THAT FACULTY MEMBERS ARE REPORTEDLY CONCERNED TO IDENTIFY THE
NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUP UNDER ATTACK IN THE CAMPAIGN. THIS
REACTION, OF COURSE, IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESSIVE
PURGES WHICH HAVE DOMINATED CHINESE POLITICAL LIFE FOR THE PAST
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SEVEN YEARS. AND THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS IN AUGUST, WITH ITS

THEMES OF STRUGGLE AND "GOING AGAINST THE TIDE," CERTAINLY DID NOT DISCOURAGE EXPECTATION OF FURTHER INTRA-PARTY WARFARE.

2. VIEWED FROM HERE, THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO LOOK LIKE A GENERAL COUNTER ATTACK IN DEFENSE OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. WE HAVE NO NEW CLUES THAT WOULD POINT CLEARLY AT SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL TARGETS IN THE CURRENT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP (REF B), AND THE ATTACK PRESENTLY IS FALLING BARRAGE-LIKE OVER THE PERIMETER OF REGIME POLICY. TWO RECENT ATTACKS MAYBE WORTH PARTICULAR MENTION.

3. EDUCATION. THE ATTACK, LAUNCHED JUST PRIOR TO THE PARTY CONGRESS, ON THE REINTRODUCTION OF UNIVERSITY EXAMS WAS REFLECTED IN A SEPTEMBER 27 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE WHICH SLASHED AT CONFUCIAN ADVOCACY OF "UNIVERSAL EDUCATION WITHOUT CLASS DISTINCTION."

BY IMPLICATION, THE ARTICLE UPHELD THE PRINCIPLE OF FAVORING STUDENTS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR POLITICAL PERFORMANCE. LIU SHAO-CHI LIN PIAO, AND CHEN PO-TA WERE ATTACKED BY NAME, AS WAS FORMER PROPAGANDA CHIEF LU TING-YI. MENTION OF THE LATTER SUGGESTS A WARNING AGAINST ANY RETURN TO "HUNDRED FOLLOWERS" LIBERALISM TOWARD INTELLECTUALS. ATTACKS OVER EDUCATION BEAR WATCHING, FOR THE UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENTS APPEAR TO BE THE CURRENT INSTRUMENTS IN THE ANTI-CONFUCIAN CAMPAIGN, AND EDUCATION IS THE AREA IN WHICH "PRO-CULTURAL REVOLUTION" FORCES HAVE THUS FAR FOUGHT BACK MOST IMPRESSIVELY.

3. CENTRAL AUTHORITY VERSUS REGIONALISM. PEOPLE'S DAILY SEPTEMBER 28 REPRINTED AN ARTICLE FROM THE LIAONING DAILY WHICH STRUCK OUT AT CONFUCIUS FOR SEEKING TO REESTABLISH THE SYSTEM OF REGIONAL FUEDAL PRINCES, AND THE CURRENT ISSUE OF RED FLAG (NO 10) HAS ALSO CHIMED IN ON THE GENERAL THEME OF CENTRALISM OVER REGIONALISM. TAKEN LITERALLY, THIS ATTACK MAY BE AIMED AT THE AUTHORITY WIELDED BY REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS OUTSIDE PEKING.(IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT IS INTERESTING THAT LIAONING, BALIWICK OF MANCHURIA'S MILITARY BOSS CHEN HSI-LIEN AND THE LEADER IN THE UNIVERSITY EXAM CONTROVERSY SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO AIR THE ATTACK.) ALTERNATIVELY, THE ATTACK ON REGIONALISM COULD ALLUDE TO A DISPUTE OVER THE RESTORATION OF REGIONAL PARTY AUTHORITY, A SUBJECT POSSIBLY MADE TIMELY BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REHABILITATION OF SEVERAL FORMER PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL PARTY CHIEFS. FINALLY, TAKEN MORE FIGURATIVELY, THE ATTACK ON REGIONAL AUTHORITY MAY REFER TO THE REINSTATEMENT OF EXPERTS AS POLICY MAKERS IN SPECIALIZED FIELDS, SUCH AS EDUCATION. THE LATTER INTERPRETATION COULD POINT, AS WE HAVE SUGGESTED BEFORE, TO DEBATE OVER WHO IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE STATE COUNCIL AT THE COMING NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

4. WHATEVER AND WHOMEVER IT GOES AGAINST, THE ATTACK ON REGIONALISM IS DREDGING UP THE OLD GAMBIT OF LIKENING MAO BY IMPLICATION TO THE EMPEROR CHIN SHIH, WHO BY RUTHLESS METHODS FIRST UNITED CHINA. CHIN SHIH IS BEING DEFENDED AS HAVING BURNED THE RIGHT BOOKS AND BURIED THE RIGHT SCHOLARS. SPEAKING OF MAO BY THE ALLEGORY HAS IN THE PAST PROVED TRICKY BUSINESS. WE WOULD HAZARD THE SPECULATION THAT RESORT TO IT NOW IS IN PART AIMED AT A GREATER INSERTION OF HIM INTO CONFUCIAN CAMPAIGN THAN HE WOULD OPENLY AVOW.
DEAN

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